



9110-04-P

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

Coast Guard

33 CFR Part 117

[Docket No. USCG-2015-0050]

Drawbridge Operation Regulation; Willamette River,
Portland, OR

AGENCY: Coast Guard, DHS.

ACTION: Notice of temporary deviation from drawbridge
regulation.

SUMMARY: The Coast Guard has issued a temporary deviation from the operating schedule that governs the Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railway Bridge, also known as the St. Johns RR Bridge, across the Willamette River, mile 6.9, at Portland, OR. The deviation is necessary to facilitate installation of new rail joints. This deviation allows the bridge to remain in the closed to navigation position during maintenance activities.

DATES: This deviation is effective from 7 a.m. on February 12, 2015 to noon on February 13, 2015.

ADDRESSES: The docket for this deviation, [USCG-2015-0050] is available at <http://www.regulations.gov>. Type the docket number in the "SEARCH" box and click "SEARCH."

Click on Open Docket Folder on the line associated with this deviation. You may also visit the Docket Management Facility in Room W12-140 on the ground floor of the Department of Transportation West Building, 1200 New Jersey Avenue SE, Washington, DC 20590, between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: If you have questions on this temporary deviation, call or e-mail Mr. Steven Fischer, Bridge Administrator, Coast Guard Thirteenth District; telephone 206-220-7282, e-mail d13-pf-d13bridges@uscg.mil. If you have questions on viewing the docket, call Cheryl Collins, Program Manager, Docket Operations, telephone 202-366-9826.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Burlington Northern Santa Fe (BNSF) Railway requested this deviation to facilitate the installation of new rail joints on the bridge. The bridge, also known as the St. Johns Railway Bridge, crosses the Willamette River at mile 6.9 and provides 54 feet of vertical clearance above Columbia River Datum 0.0 while in the closed position. Under normal operations, this bridge opens on signal as required by 33 CFR 117.5. The deviation period is from 7 a.m. to noon on February 12, 2015; from 7 a.m. to noon on February 13, 2015. This deviation allows the lift span of the BNSF Railway Bridge across the

Willamette River, mile 6.9, to remain in the closed to navigation position, and need not open for maritime traffic during the periods listed above. The bridge shall operate in accordance with 33 CFR 117.5 at all other times. BNSF will entertain requests from mariners to change the above listed schedule for emergent vessel arrivals or departures that are dependent on water level, given 72 hours advanced notice. The BNSF contact is Jeff Swanson, who can be reached at (701) 412-6593. Waterway usage on this part of the Willamette River includes vessels ranging from commercial tug and barge to small pleasure craft.

Vessels able to pass through the bridge in the closed positions may do so at any time. The BNSF Railway Bridge will not be able to open for emergencies, and there is no immediate alternate route for vessels to pass. The Coast Guard will also inform the users of the waterways through our Local and Broadcast Notices to Mariners of the change in operating schedule for the bridge so that vessels can arrange their transits to minimize any impact caused by the temporary deviation.

In accordance with 33 CFR 117.35(e), the drawbridge must return to its regular operating schedule immediately at the end of the effective period of this temporary deviation. This deviation from the operating regulations is authorized under 33 CFR 117.35.

Dated: January 27, 2015

STEVEN M. FISCHER
Bridge Administrator
Thirteenth Coast Guard
District

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